

Comments by Frank A. Lynch, W4FAL

I can understand Mr. Leggetts concerns and perhaps his frustration when it comes to repair in the field some of the amateur transmitters and transceivers that are on the market today.

In addition to being an Amateur Extra Class License holder, I am also a Senior RF Engineer for a major telecommunication company. It's interesting to note that many of the same objections about servicing, field repair, difficulty of diagnosis, and specialized training to repair much of this equipment, is the same thing that I hear from within our company by the manufacturing folks.

The engineers who develop products are today being limited by the types of components that are made from which to design products. There's not a week that goes by that I don't see another notice from a part vendor that some of old DIP (Dual In Line) Packaging (which could be socketed or breadboarded easily) is being discontinued. The market wants products that are low cost. Manufacturing wants a design that they can procure readily available parts for. Marketing wants all the features that can be possible packed into the product.

All of this has driven for some time, products that are built in automated factories for piece parts and components that are built in other automated factories. The typical hand held amateur transceiver or mobile rig is no longer servicable by the average ham who doesn't have expensive soldering, desoldering, test, and a binocular microscope!

Having said all of this, I sympathize with those that can no longer work on their amateur rigs, or for that matter most of their other electronics equipment of today.

I don't however, thing this is an area the FCC needs to be regulating.

Mr. Leggett mentions QRP equipment and the fact that it is more easily serviced. QRP equipment is often designed such that it can be built from a kit of parts (even if it is later assembled and sold so). The component count of much of the QRP rigs is small compaired to an off the shelf transceiver, and the functionality is low compaired to the current state of the art equipment.

I urge the commission to not get into the business of regulating, the Field Repair Requirements for Equipment to be used in the Amateur Radio Service.

Frank A. Lynch, W4FAL